

Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey about the increases in household costs as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown. We had more than 150 responses in a very short period of time, which is amazing. The full results of the survey are at the bottom of this page.

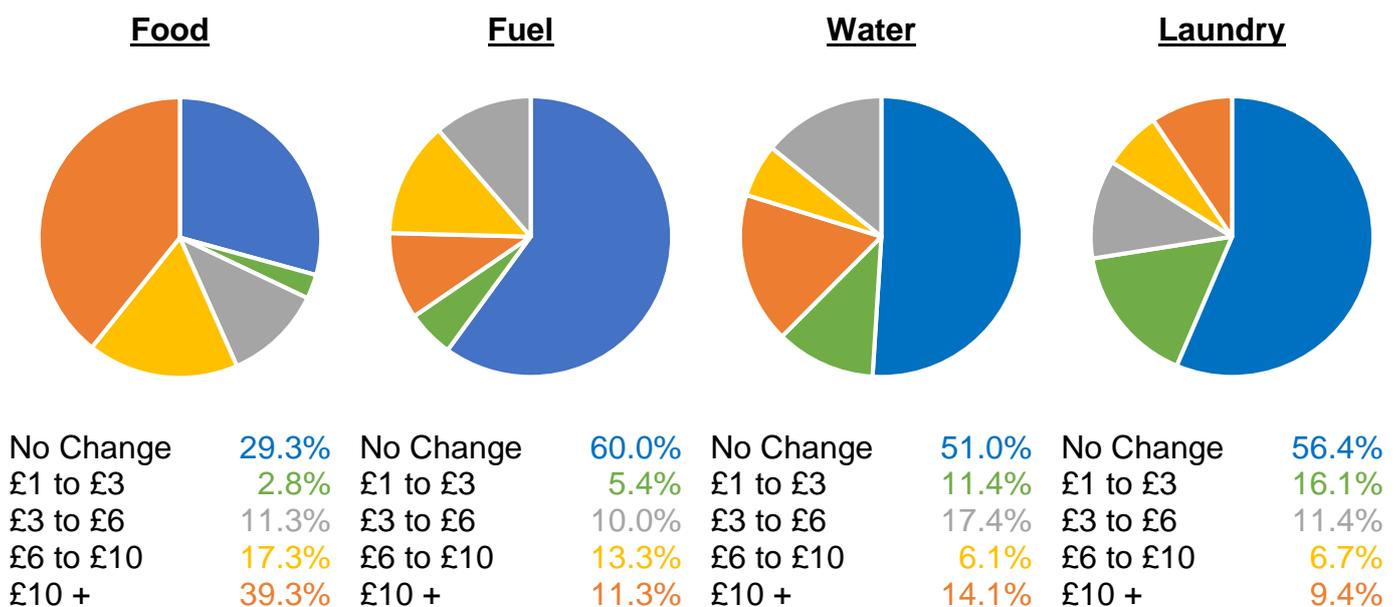
The survey results show that in most households the costs have increased. Where this is the case we would like to temporarily increase the household costs by £10 per week. This reflects the increased costs identified by Carers and would be affordable to the person supported. If Carers would like the £10 increase they need to confirm this by emailing the Funding & Benefits team: F&BTeam@sharedlivesw.org.uk.

As part of our assessment of the survey results we provide the following additional guidance:

- Where there are specific additional costs for food that are still not covered by the £10 increase, discuss additional options with your coordinator.
- Check if you are eligible for a 'WaterSure' or 'WaterSure Plus' tariff to minimise water costs.
- Have you checked your eligibility for Council Tax discounts or reductions? Contact the Funding & Benefits team if you need any help with this.
- We are aware that a lot of carers are purchasing items for the person they support, such as games, arts and crafts materials, film rentals, activities etc. In most cases it will likely be appropriate for the person to contribute towards those costs, so please discuss options with your coordinator.

Full Survey Results

With respect to the person you support, how much do you feel the following weekly costs have increased as a result of social distancing measures.



Summary of other costs which carers felt had also increased:

Electricity (17), heating (8), activities (6), arts and crafts (5), cleaning products (3), films (2), phone/data (2), exercise equipment (1), wear and tear on house (1), delivery costs (1), PPE (1).